Notes and News.

ENTOMOLOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE.

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To Contributors.—All contributions will be considered and passed upon at our earliest convenience, and as far as may be, will be published according to date of reception. ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS has reached a circulation, both in numbers and circumference, as to make it necessary to put "copy" into the hands of the printer, for each number, three weeks before date of issue. This should be remembered in sending special or important matter for certain issue. Twenty-five "extras" without change in form will be given free when they are wanted, and this should be so stated on the MS. along with the number desired. The receipt of all papers will be acknowledged.—ED.

PARASITIZED LARVÆ.—Of *Nadata gibbosa*, which generally yield a fair average of normal pupæ, I had negative results this year, 1894. Nineteen larvæ collected late in July produced only one pupa. They reminded me of those promising much and returning little. With *Hyparpax aurora* had better success. Twenty-nine larvæ of first brood yielded ten pupæ, but only one imago emerged in August—the others in all probability going to hibernate. Another collector related to me a similar experience with *H. aurora*.—Dr. R. E. KUNZE.

NOTE ON NEMATUS SALICUM (Ckll.)—A short note appears necessary to clear up the synonymy of this insect. As is explained in Tr. Am. Ent. Soc. xx, pp. 345–346, I described the larva as *Messa salicum*, and Mr. Ashmead later described the imago as *Messa salicis*. Those who maintain the genus *Messa* will probably prefer to call the species *M. salicis* Ashm., but Dalla Torre, in his Cat. Hymenop. vol. i (1894), p. 257, sinking *Messa* under *Nematus*, alters the name of our species to *Nematus salicicola*, because there is a *Nematus salicis* Linné. In view of the previously published named *salicum*, this was unnecessary, and the proper synonymy is apparently *Nematus salicum* Ckll. (= *salicis* Ashm., not L., = *salicicola* D. T.)—T. D. A. COCKERELL.

Mr. WM. H. ASHMEAD, in "Insect Life," vol. vii, No. 1, p. 27, identifies a *Hemerobius* from Mississippi as *H. humuli* Walk.; then, accepting Hagen's doubt as to its identity with the European species of that name, he calls the American specimens *H. gossypii* Ash. But McLachlan, who completely reviewed Walker's Hemerobidæ from the types, says of *H. humuli* (Brit. Neurop. Plan., p. 181), "North American specimens do not differ from the described European form." So, if Mr. Ashmead's species agrees with Walker's form, *H. gossypii* is another addition to the already long list of synonyms of the common *Hemerobius humuli*. *Cæcilius mobilis* Hagen, which was described from a damaged specimen from Cuba, is also recorded by Mr. Ashmead from Mississippi. I doubt if any-

body without a complete collection of Cuban Psocidæ could definitely identify this species from the imperfect description; and to record it from Mississippi I should say was pure guess-work.—NATHAN BANKS.

TRANSLATION FROM PLINY, IN ANTIQUE ENGLISH. The silk-worm.—"They build their nests of earth or clay, close sticking to some stone or rock, in manner of salt; and withall so hard, that scarcely a man may enter them with the point of a spear. In which they make also wax, but in more plenty than bees; and after that bring forth a greater worme than all the rest before rehearsed. These flies engender also after another sort namely, of a greater worme or grub, putting forth two hornes after that kind; and these be certain canker wormes. Then these grow afterwards to be Bombilii, and so forward to Necydali; of which in six months after come the silk-wormes Bombyces. It is commonly said, that in the Isle of Cos there will be certain silk-wormes engendered of flowers, which by means of river showers are beaten downe and fall from the cyprus tree, terebinth, oke and ash; and they soon after doe quicken and take life by the vapor arising out of the earth. And men say, that in the beginning they are like unto little butterflies, naked, but after awhile, being impatient of the cold, are overgrowne with hairs: and against the winter, arme themselves with good thick clothes; for being rough-footed, as they are, they gather all the cotton downe of the leaves which they can come by, for to make their fleece. After this they fal to beat, to felt and thicken it close with their feet, then to card it with their nailes; which done they draw it out at length, and hang it between branches of trees, and so kembe it in the end to make it thin and subtill. When al is brought to this passe, they enwrap and enfold themselves in a round bal and clew of the thread, and so nestle within it. They are then taken up by men, put in earthen pots, kept there warme, and nourished with bran, untill such time as they have wings according to their kind; and being thus well clad and appointed, they be let go to do other businesse."

THE SAUVA ANT.—Dr. Elliot Coues sends us the following extract from a letter which he recently received from Dr. Alfred Alexander, of Minas-Geraes, Brazil, which is well worth publishing:

At Capocabano on the sea-shore just outside of the city of Rio, we had a stable made of planks roughly put together. The Sauva, which were very numerous in the neighborhood, were accustomed to climb up the outside of this structure and to pass between the planks into the manger, whence they came out laden with grains of Indian corn. One day I watched them descending with their loads, and I observed that at a certain entering angle a solitary ant was stationed who had undertaken the duty of helping each separate comer to pass the difficult corner with his load.

The Sauva are very destructive to the coffee trees and strip them of their leaves. This is an acquired habit, for in the wilder parts of the State of Minas (the Sertae) they touch neither coffee trees nor Indian corn, probably preferring other plants. It is remarkable, however, that